AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-31 are pending in the instant application. Claims 2-4, 7-20, 23, and 27-31 have been amended. The Applicant requests reconsideration of the claims in view of the following amendments reflected in the listing of claims.

Listing of claims:

1. (Original) A method for supporting a plurality of broadband networks and various service provider infrastructures, the method comprising:

establishing a second communication path that is independent of a first communication path that couples at least two end points via at least a first broadband network; and

transferring information that would be normally transferred over said first communication path between said at least two endpoints via said established second communication path.

2. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, ~~further~~ comprising provisioning said established second communication path for handling communication functions.

3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[1]]2, wherein said ~~provisioned~~ communication functions ~~further~~ comprise[[s]] ~~at least one~~one or more of operations administration maintenance and provisioning (OAM&P), roaming, user authentication, media transfer, caching, storage management and addressing management.

4. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, ~~further~~ comprising temporarily storing said information during said transferring of said information between said at least two endpoints via said established second communication path.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said first communication path is a physical communication path.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said second communication path is a logical communication path.

7. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said second communication path ~~is at least one~~comprises one or both of a circuit switched connection and a packet switched connection.

8. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said at least two endpoints comprise[[s]] a first source endpoint and at least a first destination endpoint.

9. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein each of said at least two endpoints ~~is at least one~~comprises one or more of a media processing system[[s]], a media peripheral[[s]], a personal computer[[s]], a third (3^{rd}) party media provider[[s]], a third (3^{rd}) party storage vendor[[s]] and a channel information server[[s]].

10. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein each of said second and said first communication paths comprises ~~at least one~~one or both of a wired and a wireless communication link.

11. (Currently Amended) A ~~machine readable storage~~computer-readable medium having stored thereon, a computer program having at least one code section for supporting a plurality of broadband networks and various service provider infrastructures, the at least one code section being executable by a ~~machine~~computer for causing the ~~machine~~computer to perform steps comprising:

establishing a second communication path that is independent of a first communication path that couples at least two end points via at least a first broadband network; and

transferring information that would normally be transferred over said first communication path between said at least two endpoints via said established second communication path.

12. (Currently Amended) The ~~machine-readable storage~~computer-readable medium according to claim 11, ~~further~~ comprising code for provisioning said established second communication path for handling communication functions.

13. (Currently Amended) The ~~machine-readable storage~~computer-readable medium according to claim [[13]]12, wherein said ~~provisioned~~ communication functions ~~further~~ comprise[[s]] ~~at least one~~one or more of operations administration maintenance and provisioning (OAM&P), roaming, user authentication, media transfer, caching, storage management and addressing management.

14. (Currently Amended) The ~~machine-readable storage~~computer-readable medium according to claim 11, ~~further~~ comprising code for temporarily

storing said information during said transferring of said information between said at least two endpoints via said established second communication path.

15. (Currently Amended) The ~~machine-readable storage~~computer-readable medium according to claim 11, wherein said first communication path is a physical communication path.

16. (Currently Amended) The ~~machine-readable storage~~computer-readable medium according to claim 11, wherein said second communication path is a logical communication path.

17. (Currently Amended) The ~~machine-readable storage~~computer-readable medium according to claim 11, wherein said second communication path ~~is at least one~~comprises one or both of a circuit switched connection and a packet switched connection.

18. (Currently Amended) The ~~machine-readable storage~~computer-readable medium according to claim 11, wherein said at least two endpoints comprise[[s]] a first source endpoint and at least a first destination endpoint.

19. (Currently Amended) The ~~machine-readable storage~~computer-readable medium according to claim 11, wherein each of said at least two endpoints ~~is at least one~~comprises one or more of a media processing system[[s]], a media peripheral[[s]], a personal computer[[s]], a third (3rd) party media provider[[s]], a third (3rd) party storage vendor[[s]] and a channel information server[[s]].

20. (Currently Amended) The ~~machine-readable storage~~computer-readable medium according to claim 11, wherein each of said second and said first communication paths comprises ~~at least one~~one or both of a wired and a wireless communication link.

21. (Original) A system for supporting a plurality of broadband networks and various service provider infrastructures, the system comprising:

at least one processor executing a provisioning protocol that establishes a second communication path that is independent of a first communication path that couples at least two end points via at least a first broadband network; and

said at least one processor transfers information that would normally be transferred over said first communication path between said at least two endpoints via said established second communication path.

22. (Original) The system according to claim 21, said at least one processor provisions said established second communication path for handling communication functions.

23. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim [[21]]22, wherein said ~~provisioned~~ communication functions ~~further~~ comprise[[s]] ~~at least one~~one or more of operations administration maintenance and provisioning (OAM&P), roaming, user authentication, media transfer, caching, storage management and addressing management.

24. (Original) The system according to claim 21, wherein said at least one processor temporarily stores said information during said transferring of said information between said at least two endpoints via said established second communication path.

25. (Original) The system according to claim 21, wherein said first communication path is a physical communication path.

26. (Original) The system according to claim 21, wherein said second communication path is a logical communication path.

27. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 21, wherein said second communication path ~~is at least one~~comprises one or both of a circuit switched connection and a packet switched connection.

28. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 21, wherein said at least two endpoints comprise[[s]] a first source endpoint and at least a first destination endpoint.

29. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 21, wherein each of said at least two endpoints ~~is at least one~~comprises one or more of a media processing system[[s]], a media peripheral[[s]], a personal computer[[s]], a third (3^{rd}) party media provider[[s]], a third (3^{rd}) party storage vendor[[s]] and a channel information server[[s]].

30. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 21, wherein each of said second and said first communication paths comprises ~~at least one~~one or both of a wired and a wireless communication link.

31. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 21, wherein said at least one processor ~~is at least one~~comprises one or more of a media processing system processor, a media management system processor, a

computer processor, a media exchange software processor and a media peripheral processor.